

inn. He married twice and had at least four children, three of whom survived him at his death in 1663. All of his children lived to be married and both sons became landowners.<sup>39</sup>

William Browne was only ten years old when Thomas Cornwallis brought him as a servant on the *Ark*. If he was not then a Catholic, Father White probably soon converted him. He was free by 1642, when he gave his proxy to Cornwallis instead of attending the General Assembly. At that time he probably was a tenant on Cornwallis's Cross Manor. In 1651 he took up land in partnership with one John Thimbelly. Such "mateships" were common in early Maryland among unmarried men, women being scarce.<sup>40</sup> Brown then married and he and his wife Margaret sold his share of the land to Thimbelly. When Thimbelly died in 1661, he willed the land to the Brownes' daughter Mary. At William Browne's death in 1665 he was a widower with a second child, a son John. Because his daughter Mary owned the land, Browne left all his livestock to his son. Both children survived to marry and John also became a landowner.<sup>41</sup>

Both Edwin and Browne at first leased land on a manor, but in 1648, when the proprietor began to offer former servants rights to 50 acres, they obtained their service rights.<sup>42</sup> The land was not free. In order to collect on the proprietor's promise of land, former servants had to pay fees to surveyors and the provincial secretary before the transaction was complete, and pay the proprietor a quit rent of two shillings per year. Nevertheless, they owned freehold land, which they could sell or will to their children without manorial restrictions or duties.